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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951

E. P. McWHIRTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

J. S. BARKER, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.
Chief Sanitary Inspector

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1951.

*Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Darlaston.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report for 1951.

Housing of the people is as usual a knotty problem and not easy of solution. It would appear that as our boundary is limited by districts similar to our own in that the areas are practically built up, there is no possibility of extension of area. Therefore there comes a time when the rehousing of our people who are living in unsanitary houses becomes the logical next step before all land for residential building becomes used up as it is obvious that there must be some "play" of land while we deal with unfit houses. I think that that time for Darlaston has now come. It may also be the time for examining other factors in our social services.

There is now a big discrepancy between the rents of the old insanitary house and the new house with more modern amenities and some means will have to be devised so that those people who have had through circumstances to tolerate insanitary accommodation, shall not have to meet the inevitably higher rents of a new house of the present day if that higher rent would create hardship and that is where the snag lies because it is going to be difficult to assess.

There is always work to do in Local Government.

I thank you for the encouragement you always give me and I also thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued industry and application to duty.

I am,

Your obedient servant,
ELIZABETH PATRICIA McWHIRTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Staff.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> ...	E. Patricia McWhirter, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Univ. Edin.)
<i>Sanitary Inspector</i> ...	J. S. Barker, M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.
<i>Assistant Sanitary Inspector</i>	F. H. Wynne.
<i>Pupil Sanitary Inspector</i> ...	D. I. Davies.
<i>Clerks</i> ...	Miss E. M. Gregory. Miss B. M. Ordidge (left 21st April, 1951). Miss P. Birks (appointed 11th June, 1951 ; left 17th Novem- ber, 1951). Miss A. Homer (appointed 17th December, 1951).

Darlaston is a " Centre " for industry having an area covered by factories which is relatively large in proportion to its size. The goods manufactured are of many kinds but nuts and bolts still head the list.

I am indebted to the Manager of the local branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the following report :—

" During 1951 full employment was maintained in Industrial Darlaston despite restrictions in the supply of raw materials, particularly steel. Whereas nationally, there was an increase during the latter part of the year in the numbers of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges happily this did not obtain locally.

There was practically no short time working during the year ; on the contrary most industrial establishments reported having to work overtime. There were no industrial disputes and Darlaston industry and trade can take pride in the fact that the percentage of unemployment was far below the national figure and comparably probably the lowest in the Country."

STATISTICS.

Area in acres	1,534
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population in mid 1951	21,880
Comparability factor for deaths	1.26
Comparability factor for births	0.96
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ...	5,778
Total Rateable value... ..	£85,738
Industrial Rateable value	£10,221
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in 1951 ...	£338 18s. 0d.

Live Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	201	153	354
Illegitimate	5	3	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	206	156	362.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	16.54
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	15.87
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population	15.5

Still Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	4	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population ...	0.27
Corrected still birth rate	0.26
Still birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population of England and Wales	0.36

Infantile Mortality.

Number of deaths in infants under one year of age :—

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	12	5	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				12	5	17
				—	—	—

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age :—

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	10	5	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				10	5	15
				—	—	—

Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	46.96
Death Rate for England and Wales of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births					...	...	29.6

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Death Rate from puerperal sepsis per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal death rate for England and Wales from puerperal sepsis per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	0.1
Deaths from other causes associated with childbirth	...				Nil

Dealing with the small numbers that we have to deal with in this area does not make comparison with the country as a whole strictly correct.

It is noteworthy that the still-birth rate is 0.27 this year compared with 0.68 last year and it is also interesting to note that of 17 deaths in children under one year of age, 15 took place before the child became four weeks of age. In fact 14 took place within a week of the child's birth.

In analysing the cause of death in the 15 children who died within four weeks after birth I find that prematurity was the cause or contributed to the cause of death in six cases : immaturity with oedema of the brain in one case ; failure of the lungs to expand after birth in three cases ; toxæmia and neonatal jaundice in one case ; and in the other two cases the causes were Acute Bronchitis and Gastro-enteritis. These last two cases might possibly have been prevented. It is probable that the still births and the neonatal deaths should be considered together and post-mortem examination of still births might help in the search for prevention of other causes.

For a third year in succession I am pleased to record that there were no deaths from causes associated with women in childbirth in the district.

Ministry of Food Vitamin Products.

Approximately 23% of Orange Juice ; 25% of the Cod Liver Oil and 49% of the A. & D. Tablets issued by the Ministry of Food is taken up. Some mothers prefer to give their children Halibut Oil instead of Cod Liver Oil.

Deaths.

Number of Deaths from all causes	250
Death Rate per 1,000 resident population... ..	11.42
Corrected death rate per 1,000 resident population ...	14.39
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population	12.5
Number of Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	1
Death rate for England and Wales from Diarrhoea under two years of age per 1,000 live births	1.4
Deaths from Cancer in all ages according to Registrar-General	35
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	6	1	7
Tuberculosis—Other organs	1	3	4
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
Cancer of Stomach	3	2	5
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	3	1	4
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer in other organs	13	9	22
Leukaemia and Aleukamia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	4	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	11	18
Coronary Disease—Angina	9	1	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	5	10
Other Heart Diseases	29	34	63
Other Circulatory Disease	5	1	6
Influenza	3	2	5
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	24	7	31
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
Enlargement of Prostrate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	2	0	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined causes	22	11	33
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	2	2
All Other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	2	2	4
Homicide and Operations of War	0	0	0
Total All Causes	143	107	250

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Diseases.	No. of cases suspected.	Confirmed.	Removed to hospital.
Scarlet Fever	18	15	12
Whooping Cough	74	74	10
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	176	174	6
Diphtheria	4	2	4
Pneumonia	9	9	3
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	—
Dysentery	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	1
Encephalitis	0	0	0

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	7	7	8	8
1—2	—	—	11	11	33	26
3—4	1	2	8	15	24	26
5—9	6	5	5	9	24	17
10—14	—	1	—	—	2	6
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	8	32	42	91	83

Diphtheria.

There were two cases of Diphtheria in the district during the year, both cases occurred in one family and both had been immunised in infancy. The family were all immunised in infancy and though Diphtheria was suspected in a younger member of the family who had croup it was found not to be Diphtheria in this case. Both cases confirmed recovered. It is perhaps idle to conjecture on what might have been in this family but I think I am on very sure ground when I say that the parents ought to be congratulated on having had all their family immunised in infancy, otherwise the history of this outbreak might have been tragic.

Through the courtesy of the Area Health Committee and their Medical Officer I am now supplied with a copy of their quarterly reports. From the statistics therein I judge that about 50% of our children are immunised in infancy. A further 35% are immunised on entering school. I would urge that all parents should seek immunisation against Diphtheria for their children by the time the child becomes one year of age and then the child only requires a further dose on entering school and at the age of ten years to be protected till adult life is reached when Diphtheria becomes less of a menace to life.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever in the district during the year. Last year there were 14 cases.

Measles.

174 cases of Measles occurred comparing with 78 cases in 1950. Six cases were judged to require hospital treatment. There were no deaths from Measles during the year. It is important that the child should be put in the doctor's care early as it is generally secondary infection that causes trouble.

Whooping Cough.

There were 74 cases of Whooping Cough during the year with one death but ten children were sufficiently ill to need hospital care. During 1950 there were 44 cases. Methods of immunisation against Whooping Cough appear to be nearing that stage of perfection when they can be recommended as a preventive measure.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

No cases were notified to me during 1951.

Smallpox.

No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. From the statistics of the Area Health Committee the vaccination state of the community is becoming very poor. This is to be deplored because with the time space of travel from areas where Smallpox is endemic, becoming shorter and shorter so are we becoming more and more vulnerable to any infection that might be introduced to the country.

Paratyphoid B.

One case of Paratyphoid B occurred in a child of nine years of age. Another child in the household was found to be a temporary carrier of Paratyphoid B. The origin of the infection was never discovered. No other case was brought to my notice.

Tuberculosis.

33 cases of Tuberculosis were added to the Register during 1951. Of these four were brought to my notice by death. In 1950 there were 18 cases brought to my notice. There were seven deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year. In 1950 there were eight deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and none from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 248 cases on the Register at the end of the year. At the end of 1950 there were 227 on the Register.

This shows a big increase. In males it is noticed that the ages 35 to 45 produce most cases and in females the ages 20 to 30 produce most. In non-pulmonary cases most were under 15 years of age. From the results of sputum testing it would appear to me that more attention is being paid to examining the sputum of Bronchitics in the older age groups and if we can eliminate reservoirs of infection by this means it would help in the eradication of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1951.

Age.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Notified by Death		Deaths.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary. M.	Pulmonary. F.	Non-Pulmonary M.
0—4 years	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—9 years	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
15—19 years	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 years	...	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—29 years	...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—34 years	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
35—39 years	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40—44 years	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—49 years	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
50—54 years	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—59 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60—64 years	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
65— ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total — All ages	...	16	10	2	1	2	2	6	1	1
										3

HOUSING.

The housing of Tuberculous patients causes much concern. Close touch with the Tuberculosis Officer is kept and the housing position of the patient is discussed. Any recommendation concerning this is then made to the Housing Manager. It is often a very urgent matter to improve the conditions in households where there is Tuberculosis ; it might be that the housing conditions are retarding recovery or it might be that the conditions are conducive to the spread of the disease to other members of the household.

The housing conditions in the 33 cases which came to my notice during the year were considered to be good in 20 cases, fair in 7 cases and bad in 6 cases. Two of the last six have been rehoused so that the houses can be demolished. With a standard of two persons per double bedroom and one person per single bedroom, bedroom overcrowding existed in six of the houses where the housing conditions were otherwise good.

Modern treatment of Tuberculosis is producing very good results but we as Health Authorities are concerned with the prevention of the disease.

Housing is not the only factor to be reckoned with in the prevention of disease but it is one, and the time is now approaching when the supply of houses is such that the argument that an insanitary house is better than none is no longer tenable. The importance of the redevelopment of the Foundry Street Area is immense.

Mr. Smith, the Housing Manager, has supplied me with the following information :—

Number of new houses let	...	...	...	...	128
Number of re-lets	...	...	...	...	49

The above figures represent the period January 1st, 1951, to December 31st, 1951.

The number of applicants remaining on the Housing List is 995.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bio-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Admission to this is arranged through the Public Health Department or in emergency on application by the General Practitioner direct to the hospital.

Smallpox Hospital.

Admission of a case of smallpox is arranged through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Diseases.

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, or at the Wolverhampton Royal Hospital.

General Hospitals.

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the hospital.

Maternity Hospitals.

The patient's doctor arranges admission when it is necessary on medical grounds. If admission on any other ground is thought desirable application should be made to the Health Visitor, Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

Midwifery.

Midwives for the district are provided by the Stafford County Council.

Health Visitors.

Owing to the shortage of staff the County Council were only able to provide two Health Visitors for Darlaston during 1951.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Depot is now at Willenhall. Telephone No. Willenhall 580.

Home Helps.

This service for Darlaston is administered by the County Council through their Area Office at Wednesbury.

Food.

Attention to cleanliness in food handling is being intensified up and down the country and your Sanitary Inspectors have devoted considerable time to the inspection of food retailing and producing premises and to the raising of standards of cleanliness in them.

On the advice of the Ministry of Food notices requesting customers not to bring dogs into food shops were distributed for display in the shops in question. The notice is very useful even if its only result might be to bring to the notice of some dog-owners how objectionable their habits in the management of their pets can be to other people. For the benefit of those illiterate dogs that roam our streets unaccompanied by human beings a circular letter was sent with the notices suggesting that all containers of food displayed outside or inside shops and accessible to dogs should be raised off the ground at least 18 inches.

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health and the Director of the County Laboratory I receive copies of the results of milk sampling in the town. For your information I have tabulated the results.

You will see that one of the samples taken was of Sterilised Tuberculin Tested milk. Now it may be for economic reasons that Tuberculin Tested milk has to be sterilised but then to my mind it becomes sterilised milk. Why anyone would go to the trouble and expense of producing Tuberculin Tested milk and then sterilise it for any other reason than to avoid waste of milk that is temporarily unsafe to be sold fresh is difficult to understand.

I am indebted to Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer for Staffordshire for the following information about samples taken by the County Council in Darlaston during 1951 :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.
LIST OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR 1951.

Milk.

Milk Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	9
Milk Sterilised	...	...	...	...	12
Milk T.T. Pasteurised		...	...	...	7
					—
Total	...	...	..	...	28
					—
Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	28
Number of samples genuine	...	...	...	...	28

In addition, three samples of " Pasteurised " milk and one of " Sterilised " milk were taken after delivery to schools or school canteens. All were genuine.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 1951.

	No. of Samples	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test.		Tubercle Bacillus	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Present	Absent
Tuberculin Tested	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	7	6	1	7	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	12	10	2	12	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	11	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
T.T. Sterilised	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Undesignated	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	34	17	4	19	—	12	—	—	1

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	22
Number of samples genuine	...	...	...	21
Number of samples adulterated	...	...	...	1

Classification of General Foods.

Essence of Coffee and Chicory (two samples).	
Honey.	Ice Cream.
Jelly Crystals.	Luncheon Meat.
Table Jelly.	Vanilla Flavour.
Flavouring Essence, Almonds.	Cochineal Flavouring.
Pectin.	Pork Sausage.
Ground Ginger.	Luxury Cheese Spread.
Wheat Semolina.	Christmas Pudding.
Bicarbonate of Soda.	Pineapple Chunks.
Beans in Tomato Sauce.	Whale Pickling Spice.
Lemon Cheese.	Arrowroot.

Particulars of Adulterated Sample.

Essence of Coffee and Chicory (Informal) 40% deficient in Caffeine contained no preservative.

Formal taken found genuine.

WATER SUPPLY.

Part of Darlaston is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Periodically samples are examined. Throughout the year the supply was adequate and of satisfactory quality. A typical sample showed the following analysis:—

Results of Examination of Sample of Water taken on the 1st August, 1951.

Bacteriological Examination.

BACTERIA. Colonies per ml.	COLIFORM BACTERIA.
Nutrient Agar at 20°C. 3 days—0	Presumptive Test. Absent
Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 1 day—0	Differential Tests. Absent
Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 2 days—0	

Physical Characters.

Colour (Burgess) 2mm.	Taste Normal
Turbidity. Trace Susp. matter.	Odour Nil
pH 7.6	

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in Parts per Million).

Free CO ₂ 7.0	Silica (SiO ₂)
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) ... 146	Calcium (Ca) ... 65.0
Chlorides (Cl) 80.8	Magnesium (Mg) ... 4.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... Trace	Sodium (Na)
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... Trace	Carbonate (CO ₃)
Oxidised Nitrogen ... 2.8	Sulphate (SO ₄)
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hours at 27°C.) 0.12	Iron (Fe) 0.03
Temporary Hardness ... 140	Manganese (Mn) ... Nil
Permanent Hardness ... 38	Zinc (Zn) Nil
Total Hardness 178	Poisonous Metals { Cu Nil
Total Solids (dried at 180°C.) 413	(Pb
Hardness calculated from calcium and magnesium	Free Cl Nil
	... .. 179

Bentley District is supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Department. The supply in this district is now adequate for all houses in this area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Surveyor has kindly given me the following report on the sewage outfall works :—

“ The whole of the sewage entering the above works is treated on the biological filtration system. Provision is made for dealing with a flow on a dry weather basis of 525,000 gallons per 24 hours from a population of 21,000 persons, having a water consumption of 25 gallons per head per day. The works are designed for full treatment up to 1,575,000 gallons per day and a further 1,575,000 gallons is provided for as storm water.

All sewage and storm waters entering the works discharge into a screening and detritus tank. Three times the dry weather flow passes through primary and secondary sedimentation tanks and septic tanks, having a combined capacity of 416,000 gallons.

Any flow in excess of three times D.W.F. passes over a storm water overflow and discharges into storm water tanks.

A hand-operated sluice gate has been fitted to the Storm Water weir in the detritus chamber with the object of minimising the fluctuations in the flow due to intermittent operations of pumping stations during peak flow period, causing overflowing of the Storm Water Weir.

The effluent from the sewage tanks is evenly distributed over seven circular percolating filters by means of rotary sprinklers. After the tank effluent has passed through the filters it is intercepted by humus tanks for final settlement before discharge to the River Tame.

The whole of the sludge from the tanks (except humus tanks) is pumped into specially prepared sludge drying beds which are underdrained and have ash foundation. The total drying area is 7,000 sq. yds. Sludge from the humus tanks is pumped back to mix with the incoming fresh sewage for sedimentation. Provision is made so that all supernatant water from the tanks is also returned for retreatment.

The works have continued to function satisfactorily during the past year and the final effluent has consistently maintained a good standard of purification.

REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

The staff of the Department has remained, subject to several changes as in the previous year, with one Additional Sanitary Inspector, one Pupil Clerk and two Female Clerks. Miss Ordidge terminated her services with the Council on the 21st April and was replaced on the 11th June by Miss Birks, who left us on the 12th November following. She was replaced by Miss Homer on the 17th December, and so at the end of the year we again have a complete staff.

The routine work of the Department has shown steady progress, particularly as regards that section dealing with food hygiene which is now receiving much attention by the Government and Local Authorities, as it so well merits. In districts such as ours premises are not all they should be and it has been necessary in three instances to call for reconstruction. As regards many others, considerable work of a less comprehensive character has been carried out to improve conditions under which food is prepared and sold. Although many of our catering establishments are provided with proper storage facilities for cooked foods a number are still without refrigeration for storage purposes, but it is hoped that this will be remedied in due course, as it is during the time between cooking and serving that dangerous germs can develop and multiply a millionfold.

Housing has given much food for thought as we have in Darlaston few houses, apart from those under the Council's control, which can be considered as up to a reasonable standard as they belong to the "Industrial Era" and so are badly constructed, lacking in amenities and have far outlived their usefulness as dwelling houses.

Naturally these houses call for a great deal of attention and frequent visits to remedy structural and other defects, and so of course take up considerable time of the outdoor staff. It is to be hoped however that the time is not far distant when we can put into operation our "D" (Demolition) Plan for their elimination.

An approach was made to the Regional Office of the Ministry in March last as to the likelihood of dealing with an area in the town which has been in the limelight on many occasions on account of the bad conditions existing from a housing point of view, *i.e.*, the Foundry Street area. We have, of course, been precluded from dealing with this area as a redevelopment area by reason of the Government's policy, so that the delay here cannot be ascribed in any way to the Local Authority. We received every encouragement after putting the facts and figures before them to proceed with this scheme, and the necessary action has now been taken with a view to declaring these clearance areas, and so eventually being able to rehouse the many families occupying these houses. The necessary plans and reports are now well in hand for action on these lines and also with a view to the ultimate development of the cleared area for new houses.

This visit to the Ministry marked a milestone in our housing development as we were assured of every assistance in the further development of Bentley and in the erection of houses by private enterprise, in fact concern was expressed at the slow progress being made on this site having regard to the financial commitments involved by reason of the Compulsory Purchase Order. The Council's difficulty however was not of its own making, but due to the parsimonious way in which allocations of houses were handed out, and which resulted naturally in contractors leaving the site before approval could be obtained for further schemes.

The outcome of this conference has resulted in progressive development over at least the next three to four years, and future sites will be developed and roads and streets formed twelve months ahead of the building programme, and this should result in a programme of progressive building second to none for a town of its size.

The year has seen many changes in legislation affecting the Health Services, the most important and controversial being the transfer of powers to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning, a Department which is in fact a new Government Department. The Instrument giving effect to the change has made it quite clear that the Ministry of Health now have practically no

functions in connection with environmental hygiene, but is concerned with matters of a medical nature and the administration of National Health Services. Many functions have already been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and to the Ministry of Food. It is to be hoped that in these changes environmental hygiene will be given the importance it so richly deserves, and not be submerged by Town Planning and other Local Government services.

The importance of environmental hygiene to a Local Authority can be estimated by a close perusal of the following table which was prepared for a Conference Paper. Environmental hygiene it should be noted, includes many matters—housing, drainage, sewerage, meat and foods inspection, smoke abatement and atmospheric pollution, factory inspections, etc., matters which are strictly non-medical, but nevertheless their importance can be gathered by the statistics which are given herewith. The figures go back half a century will serve to indicate the deplorable state of the town at that time, and the sewage farm was, as its name implies, merely a farm for sewage with crude sewage emptying on to land already waterlogged, and thence finding its way into the boundary brook in a highly contaminated and concentrated form. There were no proper sewer connections and house drainage was by way of surface channels to cess pits and dumbwells, and in many cases old pit shafts which were frequently to be found in back yards and gardens. Sanitary accommodation was on the old conservancy system by way of the old-fashioned midden and privy cisterns, both equally foul and objectionable, and a menace to the public health as they were a favourite breeding and feeding place for flies. The danger here was aggravated by practically all milk being sold in the raw state and delivered from door to door into milk jugs—both clean and unclean—and other containers of various descriptions. No wonder there were over 120 infant deaths a year, and in one year 173 cases of enteric fever with 18 deaths. With a population of just over 15,000 there were 300 deaths in a year, one third of which were infants under one year of age.

It will be strikingly evident from this table that an improvement in the environmental conditions, chiefly sanitation and housing, has been a most important factor in reducing our vital statistics, and bringing us at the present time to figures which will compare favourably with any district of its size in the country.

In 1951, with a population of over 21,000, there were only 250 deaths of which number 17 were infants under one year of age, so that the work which has been steadily going on to improve living conditions has its reward in these figures which are now before you.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Sewer Connections.	Conversions.	General Mortality.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 of total deaths.
1901	15,406	119	71	22.65	209.83
1902	15,469	403	59	20.42	394.49
1903	15,532	424	38	18.28	299.66
1904	15,620	368	47	21.60	373.21
1905	15,660	142	50	19.02	410.09
1906	15,730	153	62	22.63	328.65
1907	15,794	—	96	19.37	364.48
1908	15,852	—	177	19.74	412.14
1909	15,916	—	128	19.22	329.26
1910	16,000	—	226	17.18	320.46
1911	17,107	—	355	17.13	317.46
1912	17,363	—	360	15.95	260.86
1913	17,517	—	337	17.47	251.51
1914	17,700	—	220	16.05	292.25
1915	17,384	—	120	17.54	259.02
1916	17,036	—	—	15.37	232.82
1917	18,903	—	—	16.09	150.18
1918	18,371	—	—	20.43	125.37
1919	17,917	—	—	15.17	195.40
1920	17,885	—	34	13.2	181.43
1921	18,660	—	49	11.7	204.54
1922	18,940	—	41	12.6	150.62
1923	19,040	—	—	10.2	200.00
1924	19,290	—	—	13.00	199.20
1925	19,180	—	—	13.8	191.73
1926	19,000	—	—	12.4	109.71
1927	19,020	—	—	12.4	190.67
1928	19,520	—	—	11.83	138.52
1929	19,620	—	—	13.25	115.38
1930	19,620	—	—	11.26	149.32
1931	20,060	—	—	11.6	145.92
1932	19,790	—	—	10.56	100.47
1933	19,810	—	—	10.49	100.96
1934	20,089	—	—	10.10	89.10
1935	20,110	—	—	11.34	96.49
1936	19,950	—	—	10.68	103.28
1937	20,050	—	—	12.36	48.38
1938	20,290	—	—	11.38	112.5
1939	20,250	—	—	11.44	107.75
1940	20,300	—	—	12.27	76.30
1941	20,570	—	—	11.67	83.33
1942	20,310	—	—	10.00	93.59
1943	20,350	—	—	10.27	90.90
1944	20,330	—	—	9.54	128.86
1945	20,200	—	—	10.5	117.37
1946	20,710	—	—	9.75	94.05
1947	21,130	—	—	10.3	110.09
1948	21,590	—	—	9.3	50.00
1949	21,780	—	—	10.97	71.11
1950	21,930	—	—	10.21	49.10
1951	21,880	—	—	11.42	68.00

Enteric Notified.	Enteric Deaths.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Infant Deaths.	
173	18	349	610	128	
20	5	316	633	129	
12	3	284	605	89	
17	3	351	665	131	
30	8	298	592	130	
17	3	329	625	117	
11	2	309	646	117	
4	—	299	644	129	
4	2	307	593	108	
3	—	259	561	83	
9	2	315	575	100	
7	2	299	555	80	
2	—	330	576	83	75% houses with bins.
2	1	284	579	83	3254 hses. converted to W.C's.
1	1	305	532	79	
1	—	262	506	61	
1	—	273	460	41	
3	1	335	459	42	
—	—	261	443	51	
—	—	237	585	43	Dustbins in general use.
—	—	220	511	45	
—	—	239	490	36	
—	—	195	459	39	
—	—	251	467	50	Sewage works completed.
—	—	266	461	51	
—	—	237	442	26	
—	—	236	435	45	Open ashpits abolished 67
—	—	231	441	32	(covered remain.
—	—	260	434	30	
—	—	221	414	33	
—	—	233	418	34	
—	—	209	345	21	
—	—	208	348	21	
—	—	202	343	18	
—	—	228	399	22	Extension to sewage farm
—	—	213	340	22	completed.
—	—	248	382	12	
—	—	231	402	26	
—	—	232	401	25	
—	—	249	375	18	
—	—	240	352	20	
—	—	203	350	19	
—	—	209	443	19*	
—	—	194	420	25	
—	—	213	419	25	
—	—	202	423	19	
—	—	218	426	24	
—	—	200	392	10	
—	—	239	429	17	
—	—	224	333	11	
—	—	250	362	17	

The legal draughtsmen of the Government have again been busy with new legislation and draft Regulations placing more responsibilities upon Local Authorities. The Minister of Food, has during the year made the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, under powers conferred by the Defence Regulations, prescribing minimum standards of composition for ice cream. This is a step in the right direction to secure an article of a more uniform character having minimum contents of 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids. This can be varied within limits but applies to all products sold as "ice cream or ices."

The Rag Flock and other Filling Materials, Act, 1951, received the Royal Assent on the 1st November, 1951. The Act controls the use of filling materials for padding, toys, baby carriages, etc., except on premises licensed by the Local Authority. The Act is intended to prevent the sale or use of unclean filling materials.

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, gives Local Authorities new powers for controlling the conditions under which the sale of pet animals takes place. Pet shops are required to be licensed by Local Authorities and the sale of pets in the street or public places—except at market stalls—is prohibited.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order does not yet apply in this area. This Order is intended to prohibit the sale of raw and undesignated milk to the public, and will no doubt apply to this area within a short period.

Working parties are now busy on reports dealing with food, and new legislation is likely in the immediate future dealing with meat products, the catering trade and meat inspection.

As from the 1st July, 1951, Defence Regulation 62B was revoked. This Section deals with the keeping of pigs, hens and rabbits. No mention is made of pigs, so that Section 12 of the Allotments Act, 1950, now comes into force automatically.

The Aged Poor.

There are few Sanitary Officers who have not been faced at some time or other with this problem of old people living alone and unable to look after themselves. Neighbours on the whole are usually very helpful and considerate and have done much to keep the homes of these people clean, and in undertaking shopping for them. However, this does not always work out satisfactorily and so in the end our attention is drawn to their predicament, and I am

afraid the outcome is that we are compelled eventually to get these poor old souls into a hospital or an institution where they can be properly looked after.

As is so often said, the poor are always with us, and in the future we must reconcile ourselves to the fact that we shall see them in increasing numbers as it is estimated that by 1969 they will form from 10 to 15% of the population.

It has been stated by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board that of the patients who occupy beds in hospitals for chronic sick, no less than 60% require neither frequent medical attention or skilled nursing, and suggest that they could, or should be, accommodated in their own homes with help provided from the Social Services.

There is no doubt that the shock of disturbance caused by removal to hospital or institution involves a risk to life itself, and this risk should not be taken unless they are a definite nuisance to their neighbours.

“ Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home,” and Local Authorities responsible for these people should do everything to see that assistance on these lines is forthcoming. Although the Council as a statutory body is not primarily responsible for the care of these people, they have in their housing programme made certain provision for them by erecting 26 old-age persons bungalows. These old people are still capable of looking after these small homes, and little trouble has been occasioned from the point of view of neglect, in fact in only one case has it been necessary to move the occupier.

Having regard to the number of old people in our midst (approx. 700), it is felt that more provision should be made for the old people who are at present occupying two-storey buildings which are hardly suited to their age and infirmities. It is hoped therefore that in future housing developments, more provision will be made for these people, apart from which there is a need for accommodation of a different kind to cater for those aged persons who require a little supervision and assistance, particularly in the provision of their meals. This need would be met by the erection of suitable accommodation around a community hall with a dining room where meals could be provided and served to them from our British Restaurant at a small cost, the necessary help in connection with the scheme being provided by voluntary, or if necessary, paid assistance. This is a matter I feel, which would pay for a little

more and deeper thought to see what assistance would be forthcoming from the Central Authority responsible for the old people's welfare.

Before concluding this preliminary survey there is one matter of considerable importance which came under review during the year. The matter is of importance to us as Health Officers as likely to create conditions which are hardly in conformity with present day conceptions of good planning.

The scheme in question is one for the erection of one of the largest—if not the largest—gas works in the country, and which it is proposed to site in close juxtaposition to our new housing estate at Bentley, from which it will only be separated by a railway line which forms our boundary. It does not appear to us to be good planning to site such an industrial undertaking right next to what is probably the largest housing development in the Midlands and to use for industrial development excellent building land which is so badly needed in these built up areas which have an overspill population. Several of our neighbours are in a similar position to ours in having difficulty in finding land to cater for the needs of the community, and in an instance like this, where the land already adjoins a new housing development, to utilise such land in this way seems very inadvisable, apart from the inconvenience and nuisances which may arise by reason of the nature of the undertaking.

The matter has received careful consideration by the Local Authority and strong opposition will no doubt be made in the proper quarters against the use of the proposed site.

J. S. BARKER,
Chief Sanitary and Housing Officer.

HOUSING.

The following indicates the houses erected by the Council during the year :—

Ward.		Street.		2-bedroom.	3-bedroom.
All Saints'	...	Station Street	...	8	—
Catherine's Cross	...	Victory Avenue	...	5	16
Catherine's Cross	...	Festival Avenue	...	15	8
Bentley	...	Morris Avenue	...	2	28
Bentley	...	Wilkes Avenue	...	—	22
Bentley	...	Montgomery Road	...	—	2
Bentley	...	Alexander Road	...	—	16
Totals				30	92
				122	
Erected by Private Enterprise				2	

The schedule herewith shows the position with regard to housing contracts at the end of the year :—

Contract.		Builders.		Houses.	Completed	In Progress
17.C.	Messrs. Kendricks	...	...	64	64	—
17.D. & E.	Messrs. Shutt & Co.	...	...	68	24	44
17.F.	Messrs. Baker Bros.	...	...	66	—	66
20.	Messrs. J. Ashmore & Co.	...	...	8	8	—
12.A.	Messrs. J. Ashmore & Co.	...	...	44	44	—
17.G.*	Messrs. G. Wright & Co. Ltd.	...	...	50	—	50
Totals				300	140	160

* Contract 17.G. at the 31st December is still awaiting loan sanction.

Although we still have 995 applicants remaining on the books, the serious overcrowding disclosed by the housing survey has been dealt with by the erection of 675 Council houses in the post-war period. The majority of the cases now on our books are sub-tenant families created mainly by sons and daughters getting married, and to a lesser degree by the influx of workers from outside the area. Applications to take in sub-tenants in Council houses have to receive the prior approval of the Committee and a small additional rent is charged.

In weighing up our position on housing due regard must be had to the debit side. The position here is somewhat analogous to National Savings—it is not exactly what goes in, but what comes out. If force of circumstances compels withdrawals, it is necessary to take a balanced view in assessing progress. During the year “withdrawals” amounted to 37 houses closed, which reduces our figure of 122 to 85—not very impressive perhaps but still, progress.

Although along with most industrial towns we have a fair share of sub-standard houses, we have eliminated a goodly number of our really bad houses and congested courts. Under the Housing Act, 1930, and the corresponding provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, a total of 873 houses have been done away with, many of these houses representing court properties where there was considerable congestion and bad housing conditions. These have now practically ceased to exist as such, over 90 courts having been done away with during this period.

In our submission of houses due for demolition in the next eight to ten years, we have listed some 1,200 houses as falling into the category of sub-standard houses—property which we consider in the main to be too old and weather-worn to be tackled under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949. Some of these houses could no doubt be retained for another twelve to fifteen years providing substantial money was spent to put them into proper order, but so long as these properties remain controlled at an uneconomical level no landlord could face such expenditure.

It is with regard to houses in this category that some direction or lead should be given to Local Authorities, who should be encouraged to acquire such houses and recondition them—not necessarily up to the standard of the 1949 Act, but at least to a degree when they would be reasonably habitable—and provide reasonable comfort for those occupying them. They need not necessarily be fitted with bathrooms, indeed, this would hardly be practicable, but we could as an alternative make some arrangements for the tenants of such houses to have free use of the public slipper baths, or at least to have such use at a very nominal charge. This is a matter which I feel even at this juncture would bear consideration by the Local Authority.

As regards the balance of houses which are beyond dealing with in this manner, nothing short of demolition will suffice, and the method should be by way of Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders with a view to future redevelopment, preferably by the provision of flats where the sites are suitable.

By this means it will be possible to replace to some extent the population which is gradually leaving the centre of the town to be rehoused on new sites situated on the fringe of the area a mile and a half away. This central redevelopment is a matter which requires early and careful consideration by the Council, with a little vision in re-planning to secure a good layout and balanced accommodation. Several tentative suggestions have already been put forward for utilising land already cleared, but until the whole of these areas which have been scheduled have been planned on paper, such efforts should be discouraged until they form part of, or are able to fit in with a master plan.

The schedule submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government shows 37 houses as having been dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act. These were situated as follows :—

- (1) Bush Street, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.
- (2) Catherines Cross, 10, 10a, 11, 12, 1 and 2 rear of 10.
- (3) Cockheath, 2, 3.
- (4) Moxley, Court 5, House 2.
- (5) Moxley, Roberts Buildings, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
- (6) Moxley Road, 3, 80, 80a, Court 3, House 5.
- (7) Victoria Road, 12.
- (8) Walsall Road, 277, 278, 279, 281, 283, 285.

The tenants have all been displaced. With the exception of (2) above (which are being acquired for improvement) and (3) above, all have been demolished.

Action under the Housing Act, 1949.

The following properties are being reconditioned under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 :—

Perry Street, 17 to 22 and 23 to 28.

Booth Street, 27 to 32 and 33 to 38—24 houses.

These properties comply with the conditions attaching to Improvement Grants, the standard being that set out in the Appendix for Improved Dwellings. Approval was given for improvement works amounting to £4,959 the grant being 50% of such cost, viz., £2,479 10s. 0d. The total cost of the scheduled REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS was £5,712 5s. 6d., or £238 per house.

A further 37 houses at Addenbrooke Street and Rough Hay Road were dealt with officially under the Act after the owner had defaulted in carrying out the required improvements and repairs.

It was resolved by the Council to proceed by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order under the Housing Act, 1936, but before putting this into effect negotiations were opened for voluntary acquisition by the Council. The price agreed upon as between the Council and the owner however was not acceptable to the District Valuer, and so the owner was given a further opportunity to carry out the work. This he decided to do, and plans and specifications have been submitted and accepted for works of improvement and repair totalling £9,000.

The necessary licences were granted and the work is now proceeding. The owner in this case is bearing the whole cost of the work as no application for Improvement Grant has been made.

Our experience in operating the provisions of the 1949 Housing Act was most enlightening. In the case of the 37 houses in Addenbrooke Street and Rough Hay Road, the houses in question were about 42 years old, of the terrace type and each having separate cultivated gardens, approved sanitary fittings, water supply, gas and electric. The houses were let at very low rentals, controlled of course by the Rents (Restriction) Acts. During and since the war however there were many signs of neglect, leaking roofs, defective flashings and spouting, several cases of dry rot in floors due to impeded ventilation and dampness, defects however common to most property in the post-war period. The figure however which the Council were prepared to offer for the houses after considering the cost of the works necessary, and taking into account the new rentals, was practically double the amount which the District Valuer was prepared to approve. Regard had to be had by the latter to the cost of the improvements and repairs necessary to bring them up to standard, and to the rents being received. This was unfortunate from the owner's point of view, firstly because the cost of such works is over 300% above pre-war, and secondly because in the latter case the rents still remain controlled at a figure which was considered reasonable a quarter of a century ago.

The price at which we should have been allowed to acquire the property would have been little more than half the cost of erecting a kitchenette, which pre-war cost from £48 to £60, and today is over £200. This was a method of improvement which we carried out to some hundreds of older type houses before 1939.

Property owners whose houses are the subject of action under the 1949 Housing Act should, it is felt, receive much better and more generous treatment than those whose property has been dealt with by way of a Clearance Order. Property in this latter class is invariably beyond redemption, while that dealt with under the new Act has to be in a good structural condition.

HOUSING.

The housing position as regards action under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, remains unchanged :—

	Number of dwelling houses demolished.		Number of persons displaced up to 31/12/50.	Number of dwelling houses made fit.
	Unfit houses.	Other houses.		
Part A.				
Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land Coloured “ pink ”	188	—	768	—
(ii) Land coloured “ grey ”	—	—	—	—
Part B.				
Improvement Areas	—	—	—	—

FOR YEAR 1951**Part C.**

Insanitary houses not included in clearance areas or improvement areas.

NOTE.—The references below relate to Part 2 Sections of the Act of 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of procedure under Section 11	...	...	...	...	37
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	...	...	...	...	1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the houses for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
(4)	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	...	...	...	...	2
(5)	Number of persons displaced as a result of action :—					
	Under (1) above	...	...	...	...	128
	Under (2) above	...	...	...	...	2
	Under (3) above	...	...	...	...	—
	Under (4) above	...	...	...	...	6

HOUSING PROGRESS SINCE JANUARY, 1920.

Year ending Dec.	By Local Authority under Assisted Housing Schemes.				By Private Enterprise.			Com- bined Yearly Totals. (8)
	1919 Act	1923 and 1924	1930	Total	Un- assisted Houses (5)	Assisted.		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Subsidy (6)	Total (7)		
1920	16	—	—	16	—	—	—	16
1921	96	—	—	96	—	—	—	96
1922	30	—	—	30	4	—	4	34
1923	—	—	—	—	6	6	12	12
1924	—	—	—	—	1	14	15	15
1925	—	25	—	25	1	8	9	34
1926	—	96	—	96	1	17	18	114
1927	—	84	—	84	5	25	30	114
1928	—	91	—	91	—	—	—	91
1929	—	68	—	68	—	4	4	72
1930	—	90	—	90	—	6	6	96
1931	—	62	—	62	8	—	8	70
1932	—	115	26	141	15	—	15	156
1933	—	19	—	19	15	—	15	34
1934	—	14	50	108	24	—	24	132
		44U						
1935	—	24X	46	131	11	—	11	142
		61U						
1936	—	96U	70	166	55	—	55	221
1937	—	—	124	124	144	—	144	268
1938	—	—	134	134	113	—	113	247
1931	—	46	83	129	50	—	50	179
1940	—	26	85	111	—	—	—	111
1945	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	3
1946	—	81	—	139	41	—	41	180
		49Pf.						
		9Bd.						
1947	—	130	—	130	—	—	—	130
1948	—	206	—	206	—	6	6	212
1949	—	37	—	37	1	—	1	38
1950	—	41	—	41	—	—	—	41
1951	—	122	—	122	—	2	2	124
32 yrs.	142	1636	618	2396	498	88	586	2982
Less		11*		11*				11*
	142	1625	618	2385	498	88	586	2971

U —Indicates houses erected without Government assistance.

X —These Council houses were taken over as part of Bentley under the Staffordshire Review Order of 1934.

Pf. —Prefabs.

Bd. —Bomb damaged properties.

* —9 bomb damaged and 2 structurally unfit properties.

CIVIL BUILDING REGULATIONS.

The following table indicates the licences issued during the year with the value of the work carried out :—

Month.	No. of Licences.	£	s.	d.
January	1	150	0	0
February	1	350	0	0
March	4	5,439	0	0
April	1	25	0	0
May	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—
July	2	406	0	0
August	—	—	—	—
September	1	130	0	0
October	1	220	5	0
November	1	80	0	0
December	1	210	0	0
	13	7,010	5	0

PUBLIC BATHS.

The swimming pool is 100 ft. by 35 ft., depth varying from 3 ft. to 9 ft. 3 in., holding 133,000 gallons of water which is filtered, heated, aerated and sterilised at the rate of 35,000 gallons per hour.

The surrounds are of special non-slip tiles. Both fixed and spring diving boards are provided. The dressing cubicles are in separate rooms away from the pool. Between the cubicles and the pool are the pre-cleansing facilities. Considerable improvements were carried out in 1946. The ceiling and upper parts of the walls were fitted with acoustic tiles which not only reduced the nuisance of noise and made proper instruction possible, but also proved an attractive decoration. The lower parts of the walls were treated with glazed cream and green tiles which are clean, of pleasing appearance and durable. The pool will now favourably compare with any in the Midlands.

Slipper baths are arranged in two suites of six each for men and women. Foam and medicated baths, together with cooling room, were added in 1946.

It was decided early in 1949, in order better to meet the heavy week-end demand, to extend the men's private baths by adding three further cubicles each fitted with overhead and shoulder height showers.

The laundry deals with towels, overalls, costumes in use at the baths, and considerable work for other Departments of the Local Authority.

During the year a total number of 104,696 were recorded as using the swimming baths and slipper baths—93,402 for the swimming baths (of which 33,854 were schoolchildren), and 11,294 for the slipper baths.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Schedule of Visits and Notices Served.

	Visits.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with.
Drain stoppages	918	746	2	746
Drainage defects	274	121	43	110
Structural defects	827	817	210	784
Spouting defects and dampness	94	94	11	90
Bakehouses	29	7	—	7
Stagnant water (cellars) ...	28	21	2	20
Fish Fryers	148	43	1	39
Milk and dairies	72	4	—	4
Butcher's premises	205	49	2	45
Factories and workshops ...	112	2	—	2
Infectious diseases	164	—	—	—
Verminous conditions	70	56	1	56
Pig-keeper's premises	214	24	5	23
Private Slaughtering	259	—	—	—
Movable dwellings	14	9	—	9
Schools	21	—	—	—
Smoke nuisance	47	11	2	9
Picture Theatres	32	6	—	6
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	111	52	—	52
Petroleum Regulations	42	4	—	4
Catering establishments	137	9	—	9
Preserved Food Premises	32	4	—	4
Food Storage and Sale (Shops)...	74	7	1	7
Ice Cream (Retailers and Manufacturers)	203	24	—	22

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFESTATION.

164 visits and re-visits have been made to infectious cases for necessary investigation.

94 premises have been disinfected after infectious or other complaints, 17 being for verminous conditions. Terminal disinfection was carried out in the case of seven deaths from T.B., and bedding was either destroyed or steam disinfected.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

41 licences were issued for the bulk storage of 42,570 gallons of motor spirit.

Three licences were issued for the storage of carbide of calcium—a total of 16 cwts.

Three licences were issued for the storage of 9,500 gallons of cellulose, special storage being provided in accordance with the requirements of the Cellulose Regulations.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

The work of refuse removal is carried out by the Public Works Department, three mechanical vehicles being detailed for this work. Domestic refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Attention was drawn last year to the state of the tips and the advisability of opening up a new area for this purpose. As a result steps were taken to acquire land at Bentley—a disused sandpit—eminently suitable for such purpose, as the ground was well drained and some distance from the nearest habitation.

A public enquiry was held on the 5th April into the Council's application, and as a result tipping is now taking place on the land, all tipping being centralised at this site.

It was stressed by the Ministry that close attention should be given to their recommendations with regard to controlled tipping, and men have been trained in this particular work. Tipping as now carried out should give no cause for criticism or complaint.

Both the collection and disposal of domestic refuse is under the direct control of the Council, and galvanised receptacles are now provided and replaced by the Local Authority. The cost of this service is charged through the rates as part of the refuse removal service. The legal aspect as to whether the owner or occupier is responsible for the provision of new dustbins now ceases to worry us, besides making for a better and more efficient service and easing the work of this Department from an administrative point of view.

This additional charge on the rates has amounted during the year to £803 17s. 4d. which means that the cost per house works out at approximately 3/- per house. At a time when bins are costing well over £1 each, this I think speaks well for the financial side of the new arrangement, and the scheme has been well received by property owners.

MEAT AND FOODS.

289 pigs have been slaughtered during the year, 230 on private premises and 59 on licensed premises.

There are 162 pig-keepers on the register.

Ten persons have been licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act during the year.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, one only having been used for the purpose during the year for the killing and dressing of cottagers pigs.

The following is a list of articles condemned and disposed of during the year :—

					lbs.	ozs.
2 tins	Mexican Meat	...	...	...	2	8
1	„ Veal Loaf	...	...	...		11½
1	„ Mincemeat	...	...	...		12
2	„ Apples	...	...	...	3	8
1	„ Blackberries	...	...	...	1	0
1	„ Hors d'oeuvres	...	...	...		4½
1	„ Jam	...	...	...	2	0
1	„ Spaghetti in Meat	...	...	...	3	0
1	„ Damsons	...	...	...	1	9
1	„ Apple Puree	...	...	...	1	11
2	„ Soup	...	...	...	1	5
42	„ Spaghetti	...	...	...	42	0

lbs. ozs.

1	tins	Apricots	...	...	...	...	13	
1	„	Herrings	...	...	...	...	14	
1	„	Beef Loaf	...	...	...	...	12	
3	„	Oranges	...	...	...	2	10	
1	„	Bilberries	...	...	...	1	2	
3	„	Cherries	...	...	...	3	2	
3	„	Sausage and Spaghetti	...	...	...	2	0	
2	„	Tomato Juice...	...	...	...	1	0	
1	„	Pilchards	...	...	...	...	8	
12	„	Brislings	...	...	...	2	13	
1	„	Mixed Vegetables	...	...	...	1	3	
1	„	Nescafe	...	...	...	...	4	
1	„	Syrup	...	...	...	2	0	
3	„	Blackcurrants	...	...	...	3	0	
4	„	Plums ...	...	...	...	5	15	
13	„	Roes ...	...	...	...	16	4	
5	„	Pears ...	...	...	...	6	15	
1	„	Crab ...	...	...	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
10	„	Beans	...	...	...	11	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1	„	Brawn	...	...	...	4	0	
2	„	Pork ...	...	...	...	2	12	
3	„	Sardines	...	...	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
9	„	Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	11	6	
3	„	Gooseberries	...	...	...	3	12	
1	„	Tongue	...	...	...	6	0	
3	„	Carrots	...	...	...	3	11	
1	„	Pie Apple	...	...	...	1	14	
7	„	Fish Paste	...	...	...	1	4—	
13	„	Chicken	...	...	...	21	0	
1	„	Shrimps	...	...	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
65	„	Tomatoes	...	...	...	80	3	
1	„	Patte Foie	...	...	...	...	6	
1	„	Stewed Steak	...	...	...	1	0	
12	„	Peas ...	...	...	...	11	3	
11	„	Milk ...	...	...	...	9	10	
8	„	Jellied Veal	...	...	...	15	0	
28	„	Custard Powder	...	...	...	20	9	
12	„	Norwegian Cod	...	...	...	21	0	
6	„	Pork Butts	...	...	...	24	0	
9	„	Strawberries	...	...	...	9	18	
54	„	Ham ...	...	...	...	538	15	
5	jars	Chutney	...	...	...	3	12	
5	„	Mixed Pickles	...	...	...	3	2	

					lbs.	ozs.
4 tins	Fruit Salad	...	...	...	3	5
1	„ Pineapple	...	...	...		15
6 bxs.	Cheeses	...	...	...	2	6
	Fresh Salmon	...	...	...	10	0
	Biscuits	...	...	...	249	0
	One Pig	...	...	...	258	0
	Pigs Liver	...	...	...	4	8
	One Leg of Pork	...	...	...	4	4
	One Rabbit	...	...	...	2	8
12	Duck Eggs	...	...	...
Total weight					1453	12½

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following indicates the work undertaken under the Act during the year. Although not spectacular in character, it is forming the basis of our work to secure better conditions in the trades concerned, in addition to which it has given an opportunity for much educational work in the visits and inspections made to the various premises.

Our primary object is to improve the structural conditions where the various operations are carried out and provide those fittings and necessities which are essential for bringing about hygienic conditions in the preparation and handling of foodstuffs. Much useful work has been accomplished in this direction.

During the year it was necessary to institute proceedings in one case for selling bread which was unsound and unfit for human consumption. The defendant was fined £20 and Costs.

Catering Establishments.

Number of :—

Premises on register	...	...	...	64
Visits made	...	...	...	137
Notices served (Informal)	...	...	...	3
Notices complied with	...	...	...	3
Contraventions found	...	...	...	6
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	6
Washing facilities improved	...	...	...	1

Bakehouses.

Number of :—

Bakehouses on register	...	...	...	7
Visits made	...	...	...	29
Notices served (Informal)	...	...	...	2
Notices complied with	...	...	...	2
Contraventions found	...	...	...	5
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	5

Premises used for Storage and Sale of Food.

Number of :—

Shops visited	...	...	...	74
Notices served	...	...	...	7
Notices remedied	...	...	...	6
Notices outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	1
Contraventions found	...	...	...	19
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	15
Contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	4
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	3
Shops cleansed and decorated	...	...	...	4

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of :—

Premises on register	...	...	...	18
Premises discontinued during year	...	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	...	148
Notices served (Informal)	...	...	...	10
Notices served (Statutory)	...	...	...	1
Notices outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	1
Contraventions found	...	...	...	43
Contraventions complied with	...	...	...	39
Contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	4
New preparation rooms provided	...	...	...	3
Premises redecorated	...	...	...	...

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of :—

Premises on register	...	...	...	7
Visits made	...	...	...	32
Contraventions found	...	...	...	3
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	3
Notices served (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Notices remedied	...	...	...	1

Butcher's Shops.

Number of :—

Premises in district	...	...	...	26
Visits made	...	...	...	205
Notices served	...	...	...	2
Notices complied with	...	...	...	10
Notices outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	1
Contraventions found	...	...	...	4
Contraventions complied with	...	...	...	49
Contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	4
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	6
Premises redecorated	...	...	...	5

Ice Cream.

Number of :

Ice Cream retailers	...	...	...	54
Ice Cream retailers licensed during the year	...	...	...	18
Ice Cream manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Visits made to retailers	...	...	...	203
Samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	6
Samples in Grade I	...	...	...	1
Samples in Grade II	...	...	...	3
Samples in Grade III	...	...	...	1
Samples in Grade IV	...	...	...	1

During visits to ice cream retailers, ten retailers were found to be manufacturing ice lollies on the premises. Of this number eight persons were stopped manufacturing these owing to their having unsuitable premises, and they are now selling wrapped ice lollies obtained from wholesalers.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

The whole of the milk supply in the district is heat treated, approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no sterilising or pasteurising plants in the district.

Details in connection with the bacteriological examination and the results are indicated in the Medical Officer's section of this report.

There are no registered cow-keepers in the district.

The following were registered for the sale of milk in this area under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

Supplementary Licences.

Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	13
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	13
T.T. ...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Dealer's Licences.

Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	81
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	7
T.T. ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 (PART 1).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of	
		Inspections.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ...	80	67	—
Factories without mechanical power	31	28	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars.	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
		Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	14	12	—	4	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	2	1	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.4.) ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	4	3	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)						
(a) insufficient ...	5	7	6	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	6	5	5	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	7	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork) ...	8	8	6	—	1	—
Total	—	39	32	—	8	—

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

There can be little doubt that regular treatments of sewers, business premises and tips has contributed to our freedom from major infestation. A nominal charge of 5/- is still made for treatment carried out at private dwelling houses, and business premises are charged on a time and materials basis.

Sewers.

As required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in order to qualify for Grant, test baiting of 40 manholes was carried out in various parts of the town. Test baiting was carried out with sausage rusk and pre-baiting where the tests proved positive with 4 ozs. of rusk. Poison baiting was undertaken where pre-bait occurred on one or both days with 4 ozs. rusk plus $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ zinc phosphide. Where complete takes were recorded 8 ozs. of rusk plus $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ zinc phosphide was laid.

The test baiting indicated few areas of infestation and complete takes were recorded in only three instances. Two of these were near to the sewage farm.

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

29 Business Premises (factories, shops, etc.)	... ..	87 treatments.
23 Private Dwelling Houses	... ..	36 treatments.
4 Tips, Sewage Works, Brook Courses, etc.	... ..	21 treatments.
Dead rats accounted for	... ..	117

Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.

CENTRAL WARD.

Street.	Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- Room	No. with 2 Bed- Rooms	No. with 3 Bed- Rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- Rooms	Total Living Rooms
Alma Street ...	—	31	2	29	—	—	60	58
Ames Road ...	30	30	—	—	28	2	92	60
Bayley Crescent ...	14	14	—	2	10	2	42	15
Biddlestone Place ...	16	16	—	—	16	—	48	21
Bilston Street ...	—	31	2	21	8	—	68	53
Blakemores Lane ...	—	10	—	7	2	1	24	22
Brown Road ...	24	24	—	—	23	1	73	48
Cash Joynson Avenue	16	16	—	6	4	6	48	24
Charles Foster Street	43	55	—	2	53	—	163	109
Cramphill ...	—	32	2	21	8	1	72	56
Crawford Avenue ...	18	18	—	—	18	—	54	23
Cross Street ...	—	19	—	16	3	—	41	35
Dorsett Road ...	8	64	—	13	50	1	180	143
Dorsett Rd. Terrace	18	18	—	—	18	—	54	21
Eldon Street ...	—	61	—	55	4	2	130	108
Great Croft Street ...	—	13	—	9	4	—	30	25
Hall Street ...	30	32	—	—	32	—	96	43
Hall Street East ...	63	63	—	10	48	5	184	75
Hampton Place ...	8	8	—	—	8	—	24	10
Haycock Place ...	10	10	—	—	10	—	30	14
High Street ...	—	39	2	22	14	1	92	69
Ince Road ...	16	16	8*	—	8	—	32	24
Kennedy Crescent ...	10	11	—	1	10	—	32	14
The Leys ...	—	13	—	8	3	2	33	24
Lowe Avenue ...	172	172	2*	—	170	—	512	174
Marston Avenue ...	21	21	—	—	21	—	63	40
Michael Road ...	37	37	—	—	37	—	111	38
New Road ...	—	18	—	18	—	—	36	32
New Street ...	—	47	3	37	4	3	101	81
Peach Avenue ...	32	32	—	—	32	—	96	34
Peacock Road ...	22	22	—	—	22	66	66	29
Rough Hay Road	46	55	—	—	54	1	166	89
Rough Hay Place ...	12	12	—	—	12	—	36	16
School Street ...	—	13	1	10	1	1	28	25
Smith Street ...	—	41	—	31	10	—	92	79
Stafford Road ...	46	63	—	3	60	—	186	107
Willenhall Street ...	4	87	3	43	40	1	213	157
TOTALS ...	716	1264	25	364	845	30	3408	1995

*—Bungalows.

Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.
CATHERINES CROSS WARD.

Street.	Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room	No. with 2 Bed- rooms	No. with 3 Bed- rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- rooms	Total Living rooms
Alfred Street ...	—	14	—	14	—	—	28	27
Berry Avenue ...	83	83	—	—	83	—	249	87
Bradshaw Avenue ...	42	42	—	—	42	—	126	77
Burns Place ...	10	10	—	—	10	—	30	20
Burns Road ...	68	68	—	—	55	13	217	136
Catherines Cross ...	4	79	9	47	20	3	175	136
Cockheath, Moxley	—	7	—	5	2	—	16	13
Dangerfield Lane ...	2	19	2	9	5	3	47	34
Factory Street ...	—	28	1	22	5	—	60	50
Festival Avenue ...	23	23	—	15	8	—	54	31
Forge Road ...	6	21	—	15	5	1	49	35
Foundry Street ...	—	67	1	55	10	1	145	120
Foundry Street Ext.	10	10	—	—	10	—	30	18
Glebe Place ...	8	8	—	—	8	—	24	16
Heathfield Lane ...	10	46	—	25	15	—	95	76
Heathfield Lane West	68	75	—	1	74	—	224	139
Herberts Park Road	68	72	—	—	72	—	216	92
Hewitt Street ...	36	36	—	—	36	—	108	42
Horace Partridge Rd.	25	25	—	—	22	3	78	50
Hughes Road ...	38	38	—	—	36	2	116	76
King Edward Street	8	61	—	46	15	—	137	122
Mill Street ...	—	32	2	23	6	1	70	59
Moxley ...	4	65	—	37	24	4	162	127
Moxley Road ...	10	135	5	65	63	2	332	269
Park Road ...	3	17	—	10	7	—	41	31
Park Street ...	10	22	—	6	16	—	60	32
Partridge Avenue ...	26	26	—	1	25	—	77	33
Pinfold Street ...	—	47	2	26	12	7	118	85
Pinfold Street Ext.	—	11	—	2	9	—	31	22
Sandwell Avenue ...	—	39	—	23	16	—	94	79
Sproat Avenue ...	16	16	—	—	16	—	48	18
St. John's Road ...	—	11	—	8	2	1	26	19
Stanbury Avenue ...	49	49	—	—	49	—	147	98
Sutton Road ...	17	17	—	—	15	2	53	34
Victory Avenue ...	80	80	—	5	75	—	225	135
Watson Road ...	30	30	—	—	26	4	94	60
Wells Avenue ...	36	36	—	—	36	—	108	70
Whitehouse Avenue	18	18	—	18	—	—	36	18
Wiley Avenue ...	32	35	—	—	35	—	105	43
Wilkinson Road ...	44	44	—	—	34	10	142	93
Wolverhampton St.	15	138	11*	51	76	—	341	248
Woods Bank Terrace	8	8	—	—	8	—	24	8
TOTALS ...	907	1702	33	529	1083	57	4568	2978

*—Includes 6 Bungalows.

Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.

BENTLEY WARD.

Street.	Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwelli- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room	No. with 2 Bed- rooms	No. with 3 Bed- rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- rooms	Total Living rooms
Alexander Road ...	16	16	—	—	16	—	48	32
Anson Road ...	50	50	—	8	42	—	142	56
Bentley Mill Lane ...	—	37	—	4	32	1	108	60
Bentley Road ...	14	65	3	36	25	1	154	115
Coronation Avenue	—	77	—	40	37	—	191	154
Cumberland Road ...	22	22	—	22	—	—	44	22
Devon Road... ..	—	43	—	22	21	—	107	85
Durham Avenue ...	—	20	—	—	20	—	60	36
Gloucester Place ...	—	5	—	1	4	—	14	9
Hopyard Road ...	14	14	—	6	8	—	36	21
King Charles Avenue	88	90	10*	34	46	—	216	131
Montgomery Road ...	16	16	—	—	16	—	48	32
Morris Avenue ...	82	82	—	2	80	—	244	162
Pugh Crescent ...	74	74	—	24	50	—	198	96
Slim Road	2	2	—	—	2	—	6	4
Somerset Road ...	—	51	—	—	51	—	153	104
Walsall Road ...	—	100	—	28	70	2	274	196
Warwick Avenue ...	—	4	—	1	3	—	11	8
Wilkes Avenue ...	46	46	—	—	46	—	138	92
Wolverhampton Rd.	—	30	—	9	21	—	81	57
Wrexham Avenue ...	—	100	—	54	46	—	246	200
York Avenue ...	—	24	—	3	21	—	69	44
TOTALS	410	954	13	294	643	4	2546	1688

*—Bungalows.

Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.

THE GREEN WARD.

Street.	Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room	No. with 2 Bed- rooms	No. with 3 Bed- rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- rooms	Total Living rooms
Addenbrooke Street	10	74	—	14	60	—	208	158
Addenbrooke Place	6	6	—	—	6	—	18	6
Aldridge Street ...	—	8	1	6	1	—	16	15
Beard Street ...	—	19	—	15	4	—	42	38
Bell Street ...	—	59	—	50	8	1	128	110
Blockall ...	—	28	1	21	5	1	62	52
Booth Street ...	—	53	—	35	18	—	124	104
Bush Street ...	—	38	—	31	6	1	84	69
Castle Street ...	—	27	—	18	9	—	63	54
Foster Street ...	—	69	1	46	20	2	161	134
Garrington Street ...	20	20	—	—	20	—	60	33
The Green ...	—	116	6	82	24	4	258	212
Horton Street ...	8	27	—	11	16	—	70	49
Horton Place ...	6	6	—	—	6	—	18	9
Hemmings Street ...	10	10	—	—	10	—	30	19
Little Cross Street ...	—	14	—	9	5	—	33	24
Midland Road ...	17	17	—	—	17	—	51	23
Owen Street ...	16	17	—	—	17	—	51	32
Perry Street ...	—	41	—	26	15	—	97	81
Queen Street ...	—	8	—	8	—	—	16	16
Richards Street ...	22	62	1	18	43	—	166	122
Rough Hay Road ...	13	24	—	—	24	—	72	48
Rubery Street ...	—	21	—	3	18	—	60	39
St. George's Street ...	—	18	—	17	—	1	38	30
Wesson Road ...	23	23	—	—	23	—	69	40
Willenhall Road ...	—	39	—	29	9	1	89	76
Willenhall Street ...	89	93	—	—	93	—	279	137
Yardley Street ...	22	22	—	—	22	—	66	44
TOTALS ...	264	959	10	439	499	11	2429	1774

Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.

ALL SAINTS' WARD.

Street.	Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room	No. with 2 Bed- rooms	No. with 3 Bed- rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- rooms	Total Living rooms
Albert Street ...	—	38	—	35	2	1	80	76
Avenue Road ...	—	40	—	22	17	1	99	88
Bills Street ...	—	3	—	2	1	—	7	6
Bull Street ...	—	49	—	42	4	3	108	100
Church Street ...	—	32	4	19	5	4	73	35
Cope Street ...	4	29	—	8	21	—	79	58
Crescent Road ...	—	6	1	—	3	2	18	13
The Flatts ...	19	19	—	—	19	—	57	20
Gladstone Street ...	—	19	—	11	8	—	46	37
Gordon Street ...	—	19	—	13	6	—	44	42
Heath Road ...	—	42	1	39	2	—	85	71
James Bridge ...	—	4	—	1	3	—	11	9
King Street ...	—	23	3	9	10	1	55	42
Rectory Avenue ...	—	7	—	2	5	—	19	18
Salisbury Street ...	—	15	—	9	6	—	36	33
Short Street ...	—	8	—	7	1	—	17	16
Simmonds Place ...	26	26	—	—	26	—	78	32
Slater Street... ..	—	26	—	3	22	1	76	60
Station Street ...	12	89	—	65	22	2	204	152
Tilley Street ...	—	43	—	41	2	—	88	86
Victoria Road ...	—	26	1	16	8	1	61	51
Walsall Road ...	—	163	3	97	47	6	362	298
Walsall Street ...	—	28	—	21	7	—	63	55
Waverley Road ...	—	38	—	15	23	—	99	76
Westbourne Road ...	—	19	—	—	19	—	57	39
Whitton Street ...	—	41	—	17	24	—	106	82
TOTALS	61	842	13	494	313	22	2028	1595

Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.

SUMMARY.

TOTAL — ALL WARDS.

Street.		Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room	No. with 2 Bed- rooms	No. with 3 Bed- rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- rooms	Total Living rooms
Catherines Cross ...	...	907	1702	33	529	1083	57	4568	2978
Central ...	...	716	1264	25	364	845	30	3408	1995
Bentley ...	...	410	954	13	294	643	4	2546	1688
The Green ...	...	264	959	10	439	499	11	2429	1774
All Saints' ...	...	61	842	13	494	313	22	2028	1595
TOTALS ...	...	2358	5721	94	2120	3383	124	14979	10030

J. S. BARKER, M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary and Housing Officer.

